

10/11/69

Dear Paul,

My apologies for the pale ribbon. Hope to get to change it today. The extra carbons herewith are for Jim. I'll send one to Hal, for some of your 10/7 relates to knowledge he has. I have discussed the Odie thing with him in more detail than with any of you. He has also seen some of what I have on it.

The Simmons list is a joke. The first thing is omitted CD 4, which I examined years ago. Its chief present value is in a suit, for it shows the utter undependability of their word. They have yet to acknowledge to me the existence of the list of which they have provided you copies. By now you have my longer list of what Simmons marked in my list of basic materials.

On the Hubert to Willens 4/8/64, what you sent is okay. Thanks. This week I discovered another doc on it that I'll send you when I get it. I want to send them to a Dallas friend. I'll send yours carbon.

I forgot to take the listed of arrested men with me, but I'd not have had time for checking it anyway. I'll try not to forget next time. I'd hope to go again this coming week but may not be able to, and the following week I have to go to NY. Perfectly okay on not telling my source. Follows exact sequence of my two sources I gave you. Enclosed are my notes on the articles, as you requested. I had Barbara Reid ask George Higginbotham, who I had met through her, make this up or she did it, I've forgotten which. Anyway, he laboriously went over the papers, when the same thing could have been gotten from the paper's library. Now it also happens that I established a good relationship with George Healey, ~~xxxxxxx~~ executive editor of the S-I, who took me to their morgue, introduced me to the man in charge, and told him to give me what they had. I asked for all these stories, not from this list but from their index. It turns out that every story is missing. I could have asked them to retrieve each from their microfilm, but I felt it would be a serious imposition and not as important as the other things I asked and got for my tell friend. No one could explain the disappearance of the original file. Higginbotham is a very large, dignified-looking, well-educated fag, getting along in years. I think it probably the real LHO had been to his place (from a former male girl-friend of H's). There are, incidentally, other indications of LHO's presence at other quarter get-togethers sponsored by fags, but no indication fags was his interest. Another is at Will Cuthbert Brady's. George also told me things about Bob Brown, whose subscriber he is. George is a gun buff. I was able to befriend him, to do for him what his lawyer could not. He promised me his Brown file but didn't deliver on that. I felt that getting all this damp stuff might have suggested to the S-I that I pay for it, which I could not do. On that particular trip I remained in N.O. 15 days and spent about \$15. I think I have Stackey's address somewhere, if you ever want to write him. He is in Ill., or was a year ago.

My interest in Davison is for the future, for AGENT OSWALD. I cannot now take time for searching on him. But I would appreciate anything any of you turn up. As I recall it, I concluded he was a bachelor because he gave his address as that of his parents. Was I wrong? I do not believe LHO was gay.

On Moore: what he did was consistent with a proper CIA function, glean- ing what they can from returned travellers.

Perhaps my recollection is wrong, but it is that the FBI was leaning on DeM because of what he quoted them on or attributed to them re LHO, not because of any of his activities or possible connections. Had Moore been with Justice and not FBI, I believe, but am not certain, he'd have had to be with one of the legal divisions or immigration, which may then have been part of Justice. I am unclear whether it still is. It once was. One of the things that surprised me about my original study of LHO's return is the absence of any indication the CIA sought what information he had. They assume returned travellers see what they do not understand, and by and large they are correct. They are in a position to attribute meaning to the casual observations of tourists. If you have any indication the CIA ever questioned LHO, I'd appreciate reference to it.

Your 10/7 to Gary, unsolicited comment: nothing from Joesten is dependable, and there is hazard in not detecting his inventions. His technique, not having even the 26 himself, is to go over whatever he can get of anyone else's work and embellish with his own unique genius, which he then presents as fact. I was asked to make an analysis of his "Oswald The Trush" (Ugh!) and ~~xxxx~~ detected this there. He is wild and utterly irresponsible, with no original materials, no original work since his trip to Dallas.

My (unanswered) letter to Wolfgang, thanks. Probably for Gary.

Davison/Penkovsky notes of 10/6: by coincidence, a friend with the London Times is coming here for supper. I think I can get copies of what they ~~xxxx~~ carried. I think they have a microfilm of the daily paper in their DC off. I'll show him this memo and see what he says.

Jim 9/24: Perhaps relating is a note I just sent you about the young men in the Dallas FBI office too late for it to have been Crawford.

On Yates, etc., I think you have all the docs I have: 102:249; 4:410; INT, Jack H. Brown (relating to T.A. Yates, Grapevine). I also have his letter to Garrison, which, by the most exquisite coincidence, followed Hall telling me about him. I also wrote a memo (from recollection) on what Hall told me about him. I believe you also have this. If you lack any of these, I'll provide. Now, on the Hall interviews, you should also have copies of the transcript. I have both tapes and transcript and can lend, but when I left this with Fred, Arlyn, you were to have been provided a copy of transcript. Burton may still have extra copy. It is very long, for, as you have seen, especially with undependables, I just let them ramble and encourage them to when they do not spontaneously. I am in hearty accord with what I take to be Jim's suspicions. If there is any truth in what Hall told me, Yates was an oxygen technician and possibly working at Parkland 11/22. Caution: I may be confabulating between my questions and his answers. He is of the right political perspective, crack shot, loaded with rifles, explosives and other such delicacies.

By the way, I did phone Ballard on the microfilm Wednesday. He was not in and did not phone back. Perhaps he has since spoken to Bud, due here this a.m. If any word, I'll add. I asked Bud to keep after him, but Bud has also been very busy with his own affairs.

I have no card of Jorge Martinez Soto, but that paragraph sounds a little familiar. I read and may have somewhere a Miami report suggesting this, where a man allegedly saw Oswald at a Cuban hangout, etc. My recollection is the source may have been sick or un dependable.

Back to previous paragraph: the same is true of my Dean interview and the earlier one Bill O'Connell did for me. Also, Turner never did provide his notes, as Hal will recall, for I kept asking for them, after I turned Dean over to Bill who got Turner in on it. I suspect it is because Turner got nothing new from him. However, I did 2/68, and left the tape with Fred for transcribing. I do not think I --

I kept writing LA asking for this stuff I'd turned over and never got any meaningful response. They delayed transcribing the Hall tapes until after he was in N.C. One of the possibly significant things I recall is the continuing FBI interest in Hall after the assassination, as I recall, or after the Report was out, I should say, in November 1964, and in LA. Agent, I think, named Horn. Dean agreed to give me his files, which he had with him, and I turned over to Fred, for I was then due for all-night broadcast, which I did (early morning before very bad Butler encounter, sleeplessness accounting for some of that bad business). Dean looks remarkably like men in CD237. So is true of Howard tape. Gave it to them. Perhaps it was wrong to depend on LA people, but the pace at which I was going allowed little alternative. Hemming tape never transcribed, batteries went dead toward end. But if Jim has any questions, let him ask them. Much of Hemming blarney on his connections, Bob Brown and his coming Haiti invasion (10/68). I probably did rough memo and sent one of you. Steve Goldberg was with me. He fell asleep and slept for most of going (second) Howard/Hemming interview, tho.

I have a copy of Lynch report if you can not get it out there. LA also has.

W. Hardy Davis (I have not seen that AIC newsletter) was involved in NO bonding scandal, was Friends of Benito Cuba before. This makes him associate Butler, for example, Moore (More, Morejon, Dearing). I'd be very interested in any list Jim may have made of names in withheld Ferrie docs. I once had an at least partial one but cannot find it. I suspect I loaned it to NO and never got it back. I'd like to go over names. And there is one especially interesting report Tom had when we were working together in the Archives. I presumed he'd keep his notes and I'd see them (never happened), and I asked him to get them before the end (if he did, never told me). There was a plane crossing illegally at Brownsville. Tom denied knowing anything, but he showed it to me from the file I'd given him. Because it was not likely a getaway plane, he was without interest. He didn't understand things very well.

Odio: I do not believe she lied. She may have made mistakes. I take her story as substantially correct. Here Jim should talk to Hal, including what he heard from Brandon when I turned Brandon on by air (we had previous correspondence). Perhaps you were still at Hal's that night with the strange women we Internationally Pancaked? With the single exception of the belief of his two gals that Odio was of right-wing perspective because she stayed with the Rogerses, that stacks perfectly with what I got from other sources entirely unknown to Brandon or these women. I went into this with Hal. I've never been able to transcribe my Mackann tape, but he is satisfied with her truthfulness. He acknowledged he knew what he could not morally and ethically tell me. Recall my handling of other preist COUP? I think he was told in the confessional what he could not repeat. I believe what Mackann told me. One of strangest, unexplained things is how FBI got trail of Hall etc from Monolo Rey, when he was of Sylvia's more liberal beliefs and those characters are as far to the right as is possible. My belief is that she was afraid, but the real reason is that they avoided the essence. She was tested as the reports do not show. For example, the Peebees took her onto the street to test her identification of Mexicans rather than Cubans (they could not distinguish). She ticked them off correctly. I learned this from Dallasites who knew of her/it. She was disturbed by the failure of the federals to ask the right questions and complained of it to Mackann. I suggest the Miami McKann SS report gives the game away. They didn't want to know and find. If after speaking to Hal Jim has any questions, have him ask me. I think this remains one of the important areas. If, as I do not expect, I am to go to Long Beach, this is one of the things we might want to spend some time on. I've already told Hal, if the trip materializes, that instead of appearances I'd rather spend time with you people so you can pick my brains on this and other things. I have also asked Hal to try and get Brandon after those gals again. I'd sure like to interview them! One of the things I'd like to know is why they guarded Sylvia the time she passed out.

Lt Geo Butler is very much involved in this. I have asked Gary to try and see Joane Rogers on this. She agreed to speak to me but had to leave town before I could get to her. Maybe he'll have time. Maybe she will.

Where and why does Jim think she lied?

I think I also sent you a copy of my Guitart interview. These are the most unreal people. It is incredible. I cannot describe their actual beliefs, their thinking and articulation of it, their strange paranoia. Sylvia, however, can no longer be a Catholic. She is divorced and remarried, again in the US, her uncle claiming he knows neither her new name nor her address (can't blame her if it is true).

Ahler memo: In the circles in which I travelled in NO, "the club" is the NOAD. It has some strange, mysterious figures, some of whom may figure in this but I have been unable to establish. Without doubt, in other circles, there could be other clubs. But I got some interesting definitive dope on some strange characters from Godfrey's mother, whose home bears the sticker "Register Communists, Not Guns". Jim's recorded descriptions are the right ones. When Hoover turns off, he always has a reason. They miss the obvious only when they want to.

All of this is consistent with the unfailing FBI avoidance of all that could be avoided about others than Oswald in any involvement.

Is there any possibility this material could relate to that on Shand? I sent you that long ago. I have never been able to transcribe the Allan Dale tape. He interviewed Shand before Shand disappeared.

Bad is due today on the suit. He's to read the file of Arch corres. He's allowing less time than required. I'll keep you posted. As of yesterday's mail (today's hasn't come yet) no transcripts from N.O. Again, I'll keep you posted.

Thanks for everything. Best,